

Santiago Update

news from the Emery family in Chile

April-May 2008



New snow on the surrounding mountains signals the arrival of winter to Santiago (photo taken at a park near our home).

Church News

University couple weds

Presenting Mr. & Mrs. Christian Moore! Keeping with Chilean tradition, Diana will actually be retaining her family name, Novoa, but the Mr. and Mrs. part is the big news. **Scott had the honor of preaching his first wedding for this young couple, who have been part of our university youth group for the past couple of years.** Scott wasn't the only Emery participating in the wedding; Holly sang in a quartet, and Savannah was the flower girl! We rejoice with Christian and Diana and look forward to seeing how God will use this couple for his purposes. We plan to continue our discipleship study with them, accompanied by an older couple from our church, Patricio and Alicia Navarro, our dear friends and supervisors in Marriage Encounter, who as you may recall also helped us pre-marital counseling for Christian and Diana.



Women teaching women

Holly's women's Bible study last year on the gospel of Mark had as its goal to help the women of our church learn to study the Bible for themselves, and each week one or more women helped her lead the study through discussion questions they wrote themselves. God has brought fruit from this training time, as one of these women is now teaching her own class! **Susana Oudkerk, one of our most faithful members and dedicated Bible students since our church began, tested her wings during our recent furlough by hosting a study for women one Saturday morning.** Inviting her sisters to what she called a "Cafe con proposito" (coffee with a purpose) and wisely giving no other details in order to pique their interest, she led the group that showed up at her apartment in a study of the biblical character Rahab--and also served them coffee, of course! Encouraged by the positive response to her first endeavor, Susana took on an even greater challenge when she recently launched a 6-week study on Women of the Bible, or as she named it "Mujeres para mujeres" (Women for women). **There have been up to 12 women in attendance each week.** We couldn't be more proud of our sister!



Susana (far right) is student-turned-teacher!

Marriage Encounter *Agape* #7

We just completed our second tour of duty as members of the behind-the-scenes workforce (*Grupo de Apoyo*) of Marriage Encounter. This time, rather than being low men on the totem pole, we were promoted to the position of *jefes* ("bosses") but still served under the direction of two Chilean supervisory couples who have years more experience than we do! The longer we work in this ministry, the more we grow to love it, as serving closely together creates special bonds with our fellow workers. **One couple serving in the *Grupo de Apoyo* this time around were Alvaro and Margarita, our next-door neighbors.** They are not members of our church (although they have visited and Margarita has attended some women's classes), but their previous participation in another church's Marriage Encounter made them eligible for service in our group. They were a wonderful addition, and our prayer is that the unique atmosphere of the weekend gave them a taste of the love that exists within the family of God. A beautiful quote from Alvaro suggests that this prayer was answered: **"The human heart has a deep thirst to serve others but is not always given the chance; thank you for providing us a unique opportunity to quench that thirst."** Following the retreat, all participating couples are invited to join four-week "growth groups" to solidify concepts presented during the retreat, and Alvaro and Margarita have accepted our invitation to join the group we will be leading. We're excited to see how God may use us to continue drawing our neighbors closer to him.

At the end of the weekend, the ME participants are given the opportunity to share whatever they like about their experience during the 2 days. **Like Alvaro's comment, there were other amazing and inspiring things said as a result of the last Marriage Encounter weekend:**

"Our marriage has been difficult these last few years, and I had resigned myself to believing that this was as good as marriage gets. But then I met Patricio in his taxi and now I can honestly say that **my husband and I have a 'before' and an 'after' in our relationship** and I am excited about our future." [Patricio Navarro, the man Scott is discipling, owns his own taxi cab and invited this previously-unknown passenger to Marriage Encounter.]

"Only five days before coming to Marriage Encounter, **my husband and I had begun to sleep in separate beds**. I was certain that we were headed for a divorce and I really didn't think that there was any reason to come this weekend. I am really glad that I did because **now we are committed to working things out using the tools we learned on this retreat.**"

"Our marriage has always been really strong, but one of our daughters has been estranged from our family for many years and won't even talk to her sister. Because of Marriage Encounter, my daughters got together for the first time in years and have decided to work out their differences. **We loved the weekend but didn't need it ourselves since our marriage is solid, but just the same God is using it to bring my children back together!**"



Our *Grupo de Apoyo* (in peach shirts) flanked by our two supervisory couples (wearing blue and black); in the center next to us are our neighbors, Alvaro & Margarita.

Church baby boom

Within the past year, our church has grown by many babies--with no help from the missionaries, for a change! This is exciting, as it is evidence of a demographic shift toward more young families in our church. **Five couples dedicated their babies to the Lord as part of a special ceremony last month in our congregation, and two more women are expecting!** We are thankful for these great (if tiny) blessings. Please pray that these babies will grow up to know their Lord and serve alongside their parents in our church.



Team news

Team Bible study

Looking toward the future of our mission here in Santiago, **our team has begun a study together on the roles of elders and deacons as presented in the New Testament.** Our goal has always been to establish a self-sustaining congregation, which makes the training and eventual naming of indigenous leaders absolutely essential. Through this study we hope to reach consensus on how to interpret and apply the relevant biblical texts to our unique situation in Santiago, and we also hope to pave the way for a similar study of these issues with the potential leaders themselves. **God has already begun raising up leaders among our church family, and in the coming years we look forward to the continued discipleship of these brethren so that one day we can pass the torch on to them.** A fringe benefit of our study together is the unity this brings to our team, as our differing ministries consistently carry us in different directions.

Family news

Scott enters final year of master's program

text

Super Mini Futbol

Inspired perhaps by his daddy's love of soccer, **Haydn has been fascinated with soccer balls since before he was a year old** and has been impressing people with his ability to dribble the ball and shoot a goal since age 18 months. We're happy to report that we finally found an outlet for our son's blossoming athletic talent: *Super Mini Futbol*--a soccer workshop organized through Redland School as a weekend extracurricular club. Haydn plays every Saturday from noon to 1 with a group of about 15 pre-K and kindergarten boys from his school. We love to watch him play, and the interaction with other school parents has widened our circle of potential Marriage Encounter couples!



Though right-handed, on the soccer field Haydn (like his daddy) is definitely left-footed!

Haydn turns 5

It was no surprise when Haydn chose a soccer theme for his 5th birthday party! Holly made a soccer-field birthday cake, and Haydn positioned the players on the field with some help from his daddy. He invited all the team boys (two Grant boys, three Perkins boys and one Hatcher boy) and two Chilean friends from his preschool, Santiago and Clemente. Between major events during the party (hot dogs, cake, presents), the boys would escape to the back yard to have fun with a giant, inflatable soccer ball loaned to us for the party by the Grant family.



To our financial supporters (present and future)

For those of you who are regular financial contributors to our work, please send your contributions to Southlake this month as usual. Our new overseeing church, Littleton of Denver, CO, will take over in July. We will be getting all of you the information that you need later this month so that you can send your contributions to Littleton beginning next month. As always, we greatly appreciate your financial commitment to us and appreciate even more the prayers you lift up on our behalf.

If you are not currently regularly supporting our work, but would like to, please contact us as we certainly have some pressing needs. We are in need of replacing some monthly working funds that we

have lost over the last few years and with the dollar being so weak the last six months, we are also coming up a little short on the kids' education funds. Of course, one-time contributions are also welcome!

God bless and warm regards from Chile. Make a plan to come see us!

Love,
the Emery family

